



July 17, 2019

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727-896-8626  
727-823-0166 FAX

*Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.*

**Fish and Wildlife Research Institute**  
South Florida Regional Laboratory  
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 119  
Marathon, Florida 33050-2296  
Voice: (305) 289-2330  
Fax: (305) 289-2334  
Hearing/speech-impaired: (800) 955-8771 (T)  
(800) 955-8770 (V)  
MyFWC.com/Research

**Dr. Roy Crabtree**  
Southeast Regional Office  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Dr. <sup>Roy</sup> Crabtree,

I am requesting an amendment to FWC current EFP entitled "Maximizing Catch of Lionfish Through Modifications of Wire-Basket Spiny Lobster Traps", which was issued on November 18, 2018.

Please amend the following items:

- Increase number of traps to be in the water at any one time from 100 to 300
- Increase study location from between Alligator Reef and Looe Key in the South Atlantic to all federal waters of the South Atlantic off Monroe County, Florida between 100-300 ft depth and to federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico southwest of provided coordinates between 100-300 ft (30 to 90 m) depth (see updated map and coordinates)
- 200 traps in the South Atlantic and
- 100 traps in the Gulf of Mexico
- Removal of requirement for research traps to have a current endorsement, stamp, or certification
- Removal of approval for commercial fishermen to retain and sell any species except lionfish from research traps
- Increase max soak period from 21 to 28 days
- Increase number of fishing vessels from two to eight
- Increase max number of trips from 40 to 160 per calendar year, including within the spiny lobster closed fishing season
- Increase sampling period from two times per month to two-four times per month

Sincerely,

**John Hunt**  
Program Administrator  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute  
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 119  
Marathon, Florida 33050

